

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 6-9, 12, 15-17 and 19 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 18 as indicated below (material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~):

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 **20**, where the router controller includes two fibre channel interface controllers configured to be respectively coupled with the first and second segments.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 **20**, where the intra-loop router is configured to cause a fibre channel frame received from the second segment to bypass the first segment, unless addressing information embedded within such fibre channel frame correlates with at least one the first segment device identifiers.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 **20**, where the first segment device identifiers include arbitrated loop physical addresses of the devices connected to the first segment.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The segmented fibre channel arbitrated loop of claim 9 21, where the processing system maintains identifying information about devices connected to the side segment, and where the processing system causes fibre channel frames received from the main segment to bypass the side segment unless those frames target at least one of the devices on the side segment.

11. (Currently Amended) The segmented fibre channel arbitrated loop of claim 9 21, where the router controller includes two fibre channel interface controllers respectively coupled with the main segment and side segment.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The segmented fibre channel arbitrated loop of claim ~~42~~ 21, where the intra-loop router is configured to cause a fibre channel frame received from the main segment to bypass the side segment, unless addressing information embedded within such fibre channel frame correlates with at least one the side segment device identifiers.

14. (Currently Amended) The segmented fibre channel arbitrated loop of claim ~~42~~ 21, where the side segment device identifiers include arbitrated loop physical addresses of the devices connected to the side segment.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The segmented fibre channel arbitrated loop of claim 9 21, further comprising a second side segment coupled with the main segment via a second intra-loop router.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A system for selectively routing data within a fibre channel arbitrated loop, comprising:

an intra-loop router configured to be coupled between a first segment and a second segment of the fibre channel arbitrated loop, the intra-loop router including:

a router controller configured to be operatively coupled with a receive lead and a transmit lead of the first segment, and with a receive lead and a transmit lead of the second segment; and

a processing system coupled with the router controller and configured to cause fibre channel frames received by the router controller to be re-transmitted by the router controller onto a selected one of the first and second segments, the processing system being further configured to maintain first segment device identifiers which identify devices connected to the first segment,

where the intra-loop router is configured so that, if one of the first segment device identifiers causes a conflict on the second segment, the intra-loop router obtains a non-conflicting logical identifier corresponding to such first segment device identifier during initialization of the second segment, and where the processing system is configured to map the non-conflicting logical identifier to such first segment device identifier to avoid the conflict.

21. (Previously Presented) A segmented fibre channel arbitrated loop, comprising:

a main segment;

a side segment; and

an intra-loop router coupled between the main segment and the side segment, the intra-loop router comprising:

a router controller coupled between the main segment and the side segment; and

a processing system coupled with the router controller and configured to cause fibre channel frames received by the router controller to be re-transmitted onto a selected one of the main segment and side segment, the processing system being further configured to maintain side segment device identifiers which identify devices connected to the side segment,

where the intra-loop router is configured so that, if one of the side segment device identifiers causes a conflict on the main segment, the intra-loop router obtains a non-conflicting logical identifier corresponding to such side segment device identifier during initialization of the main segment, and where the processing system is configured to map the non-conflicting logical identifier to such side segment device identifier to avoid the conflict.